



Australian stars brighten night sky

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

The Victory Stage hosted a show that featured artists of varying styles and talents. For U.S. servicemembers, the faces were a bit unfamiliar, because this time the talent came from a place south of the equator known for its beaches, wildlife and friendly natives, Australia.

The Australian variety show, *Tour De Force 5*, rolled through Camp Victory to entertain troops regardless of nationality, July 12.

The performers included Australian country music stars Nicki Gillis and Stacey Morris, comedian Clint Paddison, Aniela Hedditch, who hosts the T.V. show "Bright Ideas" and the final performers Lee Harding and Bedrock, who brought wandering ears from around Victory towards the stage.

While the rest of the performers had servicemembers and civilians applauding, Harding and the members of Bedrock commanded the stage with their mix of original music and variety of cover songs.

Harding, an Australian Idol finalist, is the lead singer and front man of Bedrock. A punk style band with fast beats and heavy guitars, similar to the American bands Blink 182 and Fall Out Boy.

Though Harding is currently a soloist, the "boys" from Bedrock were able to stay and continue to perform with him.



Lee Harding and the members of his band Bedrock perform for servicemembers and civilians at Camp Victory main stage, as part of the Australian variety show *Tour De Force 5*, Wednesday.

"We were a cover band before it all started, playing two to three times a week. We played 45 minute sets of nothing more than top forties and old eighties, a party band really," said Harding. "My manager rung me up and said 'what do you think? We have this gig here that's no pay,' I asked what it was. They said it's playing for the troops in Iraq. I was all for it, so here I am and I love it."

For him this tour is a chance to give back not only to Australian servicemembers, but anyone who fights for their country in the war on terror.

"I am proud of the people over here. I have found a new respect for all Soldiers," said Harding.



Mick, the drummer for Bedrock, slams out a fast beat to keep up the intensity during the Australian variety show *Tour De Force 5*, Wednesday.

Though Harding says he has always had respect for military personnel, it is his new experience in such an environment that has opened his eyes to how hard a servicemembers' job can be.

"Since we have been over here we have put the helmets on, we put the jackets on and learned a little about what the troops do over here," said Harding. "We've been in the heat with the jackets on for 45 minutes and we were dying, we were sweating our butts off."

"We kept saying 'when can we take these off?'" said Harding. "We talked and thought, you know these soldiers do this for hours and hours on end and they're carrying guns and all this extra stuff running up and down, I can't believe that people can do that."

Harding also had the chance to explore a little of Iraq and found it just as he imagined it to be.

"It's very hot, very dry and most of it is very desolate, but everywhere we go, people welcome us with open arms."

As harsh as the environment may be, Harding relishes the chance to be over here.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity civilians like us would never ever get to experience, and no one can come here on a holiday, but I can say I was here doing my bit to help out as much I could for the troops."

Harding and Bedrock's performance had servicemembers and civilians hollering, cheering and singing along.

The end of their performance took the servicemembers through the late 70's, 80's, 90's and the now of music, playing hits from Kiss, ACDC, Rolling Stones, Blink 182, Green Day and many more, all the while adding their own flare and sound.

When the show was over and the crowd had calmed, the stars took the time to sign autographs.

Even though they were hot, tired and winded, the performers had no problem staying until the last fan had a chance to shake hands and chat, even if only for a moment.

Harding says that is the whole point of him being here, to see BAND, page 4

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Chaplain reaches out to troops all over Iraq

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

Chaplains have served with military units since the inception of civilization. As far back as the Assyrian Empire, which originated in Iraq, there have been accounts of chaplain equivalents. The first official recognition of chaplains in the U.S. military was July 29, 1775. Since then, chaplains have served in every armed conflict the U.S. has embarked.

The war in Iraq is no different. For Lt. Col. Steven M. Torgerson, deputy command chaplain, Multi-National Force-Iraq, it's not enough just to sit by and hand out pamphlets, he wants to be right in the thick of the fight giving support to those troops who need it most.

"We know that people are suffering from challenging situations here in Iraq. What we would like to do is help them not feel isolated and not feel alone," said Torgerson. "We want to let them know that we are all in this together and only as we go through it together will we come out as healthy as we need to be on the other end."

Torgerson realizes and understands the mission all servicemembers are handed is hard and trying. It requires every ounce of an individuals energy, knowing this, he feels it is necessary to reach out to the troops and confront their issues on a personal level.

"The tragedies that we see here are overwhelming," said Torgerson. "If you think of the age...this is pretty heavy stuff for young people to deal with, and yet if we deal with it together we will make it through."

Torgerson plans to make himself available to any servicemember who would benefit from his inspiration and willing ear to hear and he has an open invitation for any commander who sees a need for emotional and spiritual guidance to simply ask for it.

"We wait for invitations, if somebody wants me to come out to one of the FOBs (forward operating bases) to speak to the troops out there because they are having some challenges they can go through the Corps and invite us and we'll be out," said Torgerson.

With this program, Torgerson hopes to help all servicemembers understand they are all in it together, and they are truly doing a great deed for the people of the world.

"What I would like to do is help people feel better about who they are as human beings. Our young people who are engaged in this battle here in Iraq are doing a great work," he added. "There are lots

of things that make us feel bad about who we are in this situation, but we should feel good about who we are as people and the work that we are trying to do."

The speech and discussion Torgerson uses to engage the servicemembers is meant to encourage them, not only to think better about themselves and their role in this situation, but to allow them a chance to reflect on what exactly they believe about themselves.

"This is a sort of Hooah to help people feel better about what it is they are doing here and the work that's being done," he said. "Though they will never be the same as they were before they came, they can be better because of their experience here, better people with richer lives."

Torgerson is not limiting his trips to other FOB's and base complexes, but to outposts and military transition teams who normally do not have the opportunity to hear from the top on such a personal level.

"If a commander feels like his guys could use a boost, all they need to do is give us a call. We could do this in an hour or make it a whole day, counseling people and talking one on one with the troops," he said.

Even if those areas already have chaplains, Torgerson said he believes it is still necessary at times to make the trips.

"We will go to places even with chaplains," he said. "Chaplains go through the same thing everybody else goes through out

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Lt. Col. Steven M. Torgerson, Deputy Command Chaplain, Multi-National Force-Iraq, holds a morale meeting with leaders. His style of speaking, which is aimed at younger troops, focuses on letting people know just how worthwhile they are and showing them they are not alone in their fight.

Camp Victory Three-day Forecast

Wednesday



Sunny
High: 117 F
Low: 90 F

Thursday



Sunny
High: 118 F
Low: 91 F

Friday



Sunny
High: 117 F
Low: 90 F

INSPIRE

there. It's a challenging environment. Even we can use some encouraging words."

Overall, this a new way to tackle old issues and a way to let the troops know their leaders never forget about them.

"In a way it's a suicide prevention, motivational and ethics program as well. I used to go around the world and just visit with people," he explained. "I said I wanted to do more than visiting. I wanted to supply some valuable things for folks."

"We used to have and still have problems with suicides. Over the years I have discovered those things that cause people the biggest problems and make them want to give up,"

he said. "It's those things that I want to cover in the talks. Let them know we are all in the same boat. This is where this generated from."

If Torgerson could leave those who hear him with one thing stuck in their heads it would be to know we're all in this together.

"There is a great line in the movie Black Hawk Down where the commander asks a Soldier to get in the truck and drive. The Soldier replied 'Sir I've been shot.' To this the commander says 'We've all been shot. Get in the truck and drive,'" said Torgerson. "What a great way to look at the situation, we've all been shot and we need to get up and move on together, that's how we will be successful."

Chaplain's corner

Run With Endurance

"...let us run with endurance the race marked out for us."
(Hebrews 12:1)

What a great Atlanta Constitution Peachtree Road Race (Baghdad Division) July 2. I was excited about the race from the very start – registration to running. When the trumpeter gave the race call there was a strong sense of anticipation for the race to begin.

I stayed way in the back to let the faster runners' blast off the starting line like rockets. Being the tortoise that I am, I just kept my steady pace and did my best not to trip myself or any other runner through the first several turns.

As the course opened up after we passed Green Beans I began to check my pace and listen for the one mile pace call from the race volunteer. I was right on target settled in to a steady rhythm. There were so many runners ahead of me – much stronger and faster (and many years younger). I picked the runner right in front of me as a marker. The runner became my goal. Slowly catch the runner and move to the next set of heels ahead of me. I continued this "strategy" for the entire course. It really became meaningful during the finishing stretch – can I beat the runner directly ahead of me, during the "desert" portion around the palm tree, to the finish line? I sucked in a big breath

and took off like someone was going to make tortoise soup if I didn't get moving! Totally surprised that I caught and passed the runner, I took a finishing card from the volunteer in the chute – one place ahead of the runner I passed.

So, what is the point – one place ahead? I did not give up – I ran all the way through the finish line.

With my lime green finishing T-shirt in hand I walked around the finishing area and drank lots and lots of water. Looking at all the faces of the runners, those that ran with me, those that followed and those that finished long before me, I saw the satisfied look of completion and affirmation.

I feel this is what Saint Paul had in mind when he wrote, "...run with endurance the race marked out for us." When I felt

discouraged about my pace and saw the long line of fleet feet ahead of me, it was encouraging to remember that the Lord will give me the grace and strength to endure and finish the race. Running the race was indeed a spiritual event for me – a runner's high from the Lord.

No matter what "race" I find myself running, I know that my spiritual endurance comes from my Heavenly "Coach". What race are you running? Who is your coach?



CH (MAJ) Charles M. Herring
Religious Support Operations
MNC-I Chaplain Office

Letters from home

Cmdr. James Whittington, Multi-National Forces-Iraq,

Happy Birthday Sweetheart! I wish you were here so we could celebrate; celebrate when you come home.

Wishbone and I miss you like crazy! Take good care of you for me.

All my love, Madelynn

TUNE IN EVERY WEEK TO

OIF UPDATE

THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS - IRAQ RADIO NEWSCAST

ONLINE AT: WWW.MNCI.CENTCOM.MIL



BAND

help the troops. If his music puts a smile on only one person's face then he is satisfied.

"Music is my life, I love music so much and I love being on stage. My most favorite thing in the world is being on stage performing for people. To be over here and giving something from inside me that I feel so much for, to spread that out to so many people and to bring them joy while performing on stage is great."

Harding and the rest of the performers had been in country for a week before coming to Victory and will perform a total of 12 shows in two weeks.

In only a short time Harding believes he has helped in his own way and hopes that it does some good for those who are fighting for the safety and security of their nations and the rest of the world.

"I take my hat totally off to every single person who is over here fighting. It's an amazing thing to do for their country," said Harding. "I'm proud of every single person no matter what nationality they are. It's a huge thing they are doing for their country and the rest of the world. I hope that they keep working hard, do well and come home safe."

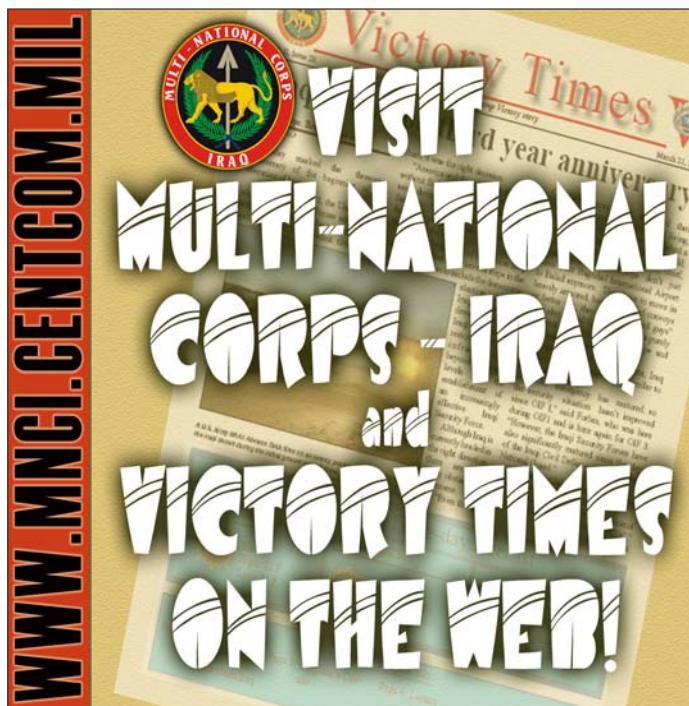


Photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks (MNC-I PAO)

Cheer power

In a true display of team spirit, 12 Denver Broncos cheerleaders found their own way to say thank you by visiting with, and performing for servicemembers and civilians at Victory Base Complex, July 17. For them this was a chance to give back to those who have done so much for them.

"You all are the most amazing bunch of people that I have ever met in my entire life. This is really a gift for us to be out here," said Romi Bean, a Denver Broncos cheerleader. "We just want you to know how much we support you and how much we appreciate what you do. We are thankful to you for enabling us to live our lives the way we do back home. You all are our heroes."

ROLLOVER!

CREW DRILL: ARTEP-19-100-10-DRILL

**Learn Them.
Know Them.
Live Them.**

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

Multi-National Corps-Iraq
presents

CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Cultural Diversity Day recognizes differences in race, ethnicity, language, nationality, gender, and religion of personnel from different countries, services, DoD and contract civilians employees associated with our mission here in Iraq.

11 AUG 06
COME VIEW THE CULTURAL EXHIBITS AT THE
AL FAW PALACE ROTUNDA
9am – 8pm

ENJOY CULTURAL FOOD SAMPLES AND ACTIVITIES
AT YOUR FAVORITE DINING FACILITIES
(Coalition and Oasis)
11:30am – 2pm

12 AUG 06
5K CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY RUN
Come represent your country and culture

ACT EXAMS

Camp Victory
August 6 Sunday

The Education Center will be closed on the following days:
July 23 for Maintenance
Aug 20 for Maintenance

Education Center
Please sign up at the
Ed Center by July 28

July 15, 16 for testing
Aug 5, 6 for testing
Aug 26, 27 for testing

Camp Victory Education Center
Building 27B
(318) 822-5183

educationcenter@iraq.centcom.mil

**You could loose your
hand with three of a
kind...**

**or your life. Don't
set patterns.**

STAY ALIVE

0054 IEDs KILL

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Faces of Freedom
The children of Iraq are important to the future and fate of this country.

Do you have any photo's of the Iraqi children?

If so, send them to james.hunter@iraq.centcom.mil to have them published in the Victory Times.

Please provide information of who, what, when and where.




GT Improvement Course

Is your GT score under 110 and holding you back?
Want to improve your GT score ASAP?

Where: Camp Victory Education Center, Building 27B

When: Monday - Friday

Start: August 7

Time: 9 am - 3 pm

Graduate: August 25

ASVAB: August 26-27

POC: educationcenter@iraq.centcom.mil

822- 4725

822- 4640

C-IED TRAINING TEAM

COURSES:

EHAAT LEVEL III

C-IED LEVEL III



IED TTPs

CREW FUNDAMENTALS

CACHE AWARENESS

IED INTELLIGENCE CYCLE

TACTICAL IED STX LANE

WE CAN GO TO YOU OR YOU CAN COME TO US
CALL US TODAY AND COORDINATE TRAINING
THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN
CONTACT CPT CHRISTOPHER KIDD

VOIP (318) 243-458

DSN (318) 822-3178

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://spsan.iraq.centcom.smil.mil/CIED/default.aspx>



Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to jason.baker@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Friday:

Jumu'ah (Islamic Prayer) 1300

Sunday:

Traditional Protestant Service 0700 and 0845
Roman Catholic Confession 1000
Roman Catholic Mass 1030
Gospel Protestant Service 1200
Latter Day Saints Service 1400
Episcopal/Lutheran Service 1600
Contemporary Protestant Service 1800

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist Service 1100
Roman Catholic Mass 2000

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Monday - Friday

Roman Catholic Service 1600

Friday:

Jewish Service 1830

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
MNC-I Production Chief: Staff Sgt. Jason B. Baker
Victory Times Staff writers/ photographers: Spc. Brian James Anderson,
Spc. Curt Squires, Spc. James P. Hunter, Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

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